

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

In furtherance of conforming the specification of the subject application to that of the parent, please add/rewrite/substitute the following paragraphs of the specification as follows:

**>Page 1, between the Title and the caption TECHNICAL FIELD, add the following new text, namely, a claim of priority to earlier filed application(s):**

This is a continuation of copending application Ser. No. 10/202,232 filed July 24, 2002, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,607,74 issued on August 19, 2003, which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/836,764 filed April 17, 2001, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,503,531 issued on January 7, 2003, which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/185,456 filed November 3, 1998, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,216,699 issued on April 17, 2001 which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 08/662,850 filed on June 12, 1996, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,829,442 issued on November 3, 1998.

**>Page 9, before the caption DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS, add the following new text (i.e., section):**

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an enlarged, sectional illustration of a first embodiment of the present invention; and,

FIG. 2 is an enlarged, sectional illustration of a second embodiment of the present invention.

**>Page 10, replace/amend the first full paragraph thereon as follows:**

The present invention is an adhesive compound which incorporates an adhesive component together with a broad spectrum antimicrobial agent dispersed therethrough. The antimicrobial

agent is homogeneously dispersed throughout the adhesive layer 10. Active antimicrobial molecules of the present composition disassociate from the surface or leach out of the adhesive matrix over time, delivering biocidal activity at a distance from the adhesive surface 12. Applicants have conclusively demonstrated by zone of inhibition tests on a wide variety of infections organisms the efficacy of the present composition. These tests showed that microbes were inhibited and killed at a distance from the sample as detailed in the attached experimental examples.

**>Page 10, replace/amend the second paragraph beginning thereon and ending on page 11 as follows:**

The adhesive of the present invention is specifically suited for use in skin contact applications during and after medical procedures, for example; as an adhesive in surgical drapes 16, wound dressings and tapes. The adhesive composition is a hot melt adhesive. By hot melt adhesive, it is meant that the adhesive is essentially solventless or 100% solids and flowable at elevated temperatures for application to a substrate material 14, such as a surgical drape. The preferred adhesive composition incorporates acrylic polymers and added tackifiers to form a pressure-sensitive adhesive which is particularly suited for use in surgical procedures.

**>Page 13, replace/amend the second full paragraph thereon as follows:**

The adhesive utilized for the tests included 2% diiodomethyl-p-tolylsulfone homogeneously dispersed as detailed above in an adhesive composition. The adhesive composition included 17% low

molecular weight acrylic polymer (HRJ-4326 from Schenectady International, Inc.) and 67% medium molecular weight polymer (HRJ-10127 from Schenectady International, Inc.) along with 16% FLORAL 105 synthetic resin from Hercules, Inc. as a tackifier. The adhesive composition was prepared as detailed above. The adhesive composition was then melted and applied to a substrate layer 14 in a thin coating (approximately 0.05mm in thickness). The substrate was a co-polyester surgical drape material available from DuPont under the tradename HYTREL. The coated substrate 14 was cut to 6.0mm disks for use in testing.